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PCT OFFICE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PCT Application of: OTSUKA PHARMACEUTICAL CO., INC.
Inventors: Hiroshi OKAZAKI
Int'l Appln. No.: PCT/IB2004/02670
Int'l Filing Date: July 19, 2004
Docket No: F178622
For: OLIGODENDROCYTE PRECURSOR CELLS AND
METHODS OF OBTAINING AND CULTURING THE SAME

RESPONSE TO INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

MAIL STOP PCT
Attn: IPEA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The International Search Report and Written Opinion issued in the above-identified application on December 23, 2005. As this response is being filed within the two month period for reply, this Response is timely.

In the Written Opinion, the Examiner cited to Kessaris et al. (*Development* 131(6):1289-1298). While the Examiner correctly noted on the International Search Report that Kessaris et al. was published in 2004, the Examiner indicates in the Written Opinion that Kessaris et al. was published in 2003.

Because Kessaris et al. was indeed published in 2004, it was published after the July 18, 2003 priority date of the instant application, i.e., the filing date of U.S. provisional application no. 60/487,933. As the provisional application fully supports each of the claims of the international application, and Kessaris et al. was published after the priority date,

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Kessaris et al. may not serve as legally-effective prior art against the claims of the international application.

Respectfully submitted,



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